

ABSTRACT

A method for controlling the drive unit of a vehicle in which an extended overrun mode having reduced fuel consumption and reduced pollutant emission is possible. A free-wheel mode
5 in which the vehicle operates with the clutch disengaged is set as a function of a driving situation or an operating state of the drive unit. An output variable of the drive unit, such as torque or vehicle speed, is set to a constant value during the transition between an engaged-clutch travel mode and a
10 free-wheel mode.